

“I love feeling accepted into the working community”

"I don't think a disability should limit someone's opportunities or their goals. We are equal individuals and can do the same work."

“Hire me, and what I will do will overshadow that (disability)”

“I don’t want my disability to define me”

“I was volunteering a year before and now I get paid for it.”

“People with disabilities can function in the workplace”

“What disability?”

[What does having a job mean to you?] “An independent person and making good money and coming in with a good attitude.”

“Chris (employee with a disability) has a positive influence on the intangible things that happen here on a daily basis”

[How do you like the customers here?] You know, they’re just a groovy bunch of guys; a lot more guys than there are girls. That might be one of the reasons I like it here.“

# Disability Employment Initiative

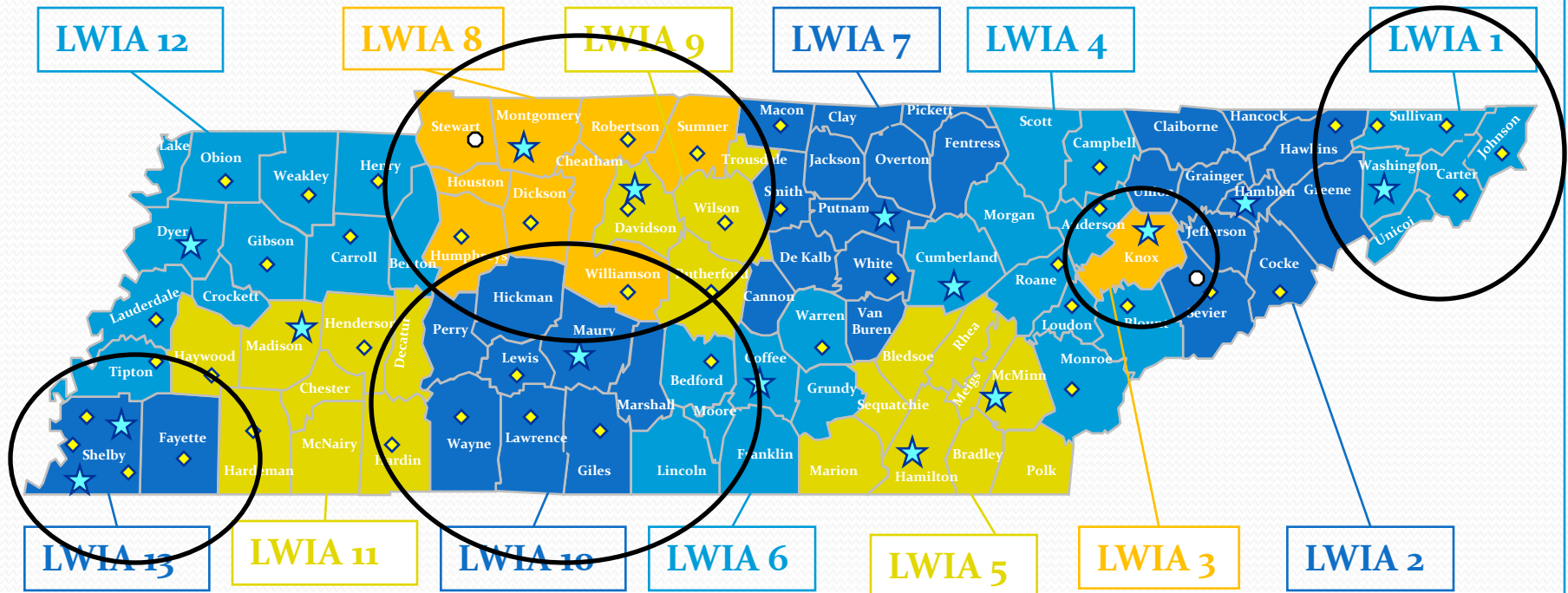
October 2011  
Through  
September 2014

# Specifics

- \$2,916,400
- Effective October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2014
- Award has been implemented through five Local Workforce Investment Areas

# Tennessee

## Local Workforce Investment Areas



Comprehensive Career Centers ( )



Affiliated Sites ( )



TDLWD Local Offices ( )



# Six Primary Objectives

1. Recruitment or designation of a staff member to act as a Disability Resource Coordinator
2. Participate or apply for enrollment as an Employment Network (Sharyn Hancock)
3. Establish an Integrated Resource Team (Suzy Pruitt)
4. Develop an aggressive Customized Employment effort (Amanda Sells)
5. Develop and maintain asset development strategies (Phyllis Brunson)
6. Develop strategies to enhance and strengthen partnerships and collaborations (Stephanie Potter)

# Outcomes for the DEI Project

- Increase service to disabled adults in the participating WIAs by 25%
- Increase the number of disabled participants placed in employment by 20%
- Increase the number of disabled participants retained in employment by 10%
- Increase disabled participant's 6 month earning to approximately 97% of the earnings achieved by the WIA adult population.